

Daily Defence Current Affairs

11 July 2025

LORA Could Be India's Next Big Strike Weapon

- The Indian Air Force wants more reach. Despite owning the formidable BrahMos, it's now looking at Israel Aerospace Industries' Air-Launched **Long-Range Artillery (Air LORA) missile**.
- This comes hot on the heels of May's Operation Sindoor, where the Rampage missile got its first taste of combat and proved how vital stand-off range really is.
- Air LORA isn't a minor tweak. It's a quasi-ballistic, supersonic missile that flies about 400–430 kilometres and lands within ten metres of its target.
- LORA isn't your typical **cruise missile**. It blends ballistic missile traits with air-launch flexibility. Instead of hugging the ground like BrahMos, it soars on a high, depressed trajectory. That makes it trickier to shoot down.
- Back in 2023, IAI and **Bharat Electronics Limited** signed a Memorandum of Understanding to co-produce advanced missile systems. If LORA gets the green light, expect licensed production under **Make in India**.
- Range: 400–430 km
- Speed: Supersonic, about Mach 5
- Accuracy: Less than 10-metre CEP
- Warhead: Blast fragmentation or deep-penetration, up to 570 kg
- Weight: 1,600 kg; Length: 5.2 metres



Astrophel Aerospace Secures ₹6.84 Crore To Advance Reusable Rocket Engine Technology

- Astrophel Aerospace, a deep-tech space start-up headquartered in Pune, has successfully raised ₹6.84 crore (approximately \$800,000) in a pre-seed funding round.
- This round was led by a group of individual investors and angel venture firms, marking a significant milestone for the company as it embarks on the development of a prototype for a reusable semi-cryogenic launch vehicle.
- The infusion of capital will also be channelled into scaling Astrophel's in-house research and development efforts, particularly focusing on missile-grade guidance systems.
- Astrophel Aerospace has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to facilitate collaborative R&D and testing activities.



M982 Excalibur Procurement

- The Indian Army's pursuit of additional **M982 Excalibur GPS-guided artillery rounds** represents a significant strategic evolution in precision warfare capabilities, catalysed by the successful deployment of these advanced munitions during **Operation Sindoor** in May 2025.
- Developed through a collaborative effort between Raytheon Missiles & Defence and BAE Systems, the 155mm extended-range guided projectile achieves remarkable precision with a circular error probable (CEP) of just four meters.



'Hidden' Chinese research vessel in Bay of Bengal

- A French maritime intelligence company, which uses satellites to track ships in the high seas, has pointed to a 'hidden' Chinese research vessel that was active in the Bay of Bengal for several days near Indian waters and attempted to hide its presence by switching off its **Automatic Identification System**.
- In a 16-day survey carried out in the Bay of Bengal, where it tracked vessels using radio frequency emissions, the company found that nearly 10% of ships were operating without an active AIS, flagging off security concerns that has seen enhanced Chinese activity and signs of growing Sino-Bangladesh ties.
- Although it stayed in international waters, the ET report says it operated just 120 nautical miles from Indian "military zones". During a 16-day radio-frequency (RF) survey, the French satellite firm found that 9.6 per cent of 1,897 ships in the area had no active AIS, raising concerns about covert activity in the region.



30 Defence Projects Get Wildlife Panel Nod

- From infrastructure for a forward aviation base, facilities for missiles and vital road linkages along the Line of Actual Control, the standing committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) has approved proposals for critical Defence projects along the boundary with China, stretching from eastern Ladakh to Sikkim to Arunachal Pradesh.
- It has also cleared construction of the Arunachal Frontier Highway close to the Myanmar border, through the core zone of the Namdapha Tiger Reserve subject to mitigation measures to minimise impact on wildlife and their habitats. The project will divert 310 hectares of forest from the tiger reserve — committee members have noted it will also lead to tree felling.
- One of the most significant projects approved was a 10.26-km road link between Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) to the Border Personnel Meeting (BPM) Hut where senior Indian and Chinese Army officers meet to discuss border issues. At a height of 17,000 feet, DBO is the country's northernmost military outpost where the highest airstrip is also located. Last October, the SC-NBWL had approved an alternate route to DBO for quick movement of troops and resources.
- The Karakoram sanctuary is home to the Tibetan antelope, Shapo, Wild Yak, Bharal, snow leopard, Himalayan grey wolf, lynx and marmot. The Dibang sanctuary is home to the leopard and tiger while the Asiatic Black Bear, among other fauna, resides in the Pangolakha sanctuary.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the range of the Air LORA missile?

- A. 100–150 km
- B. 200–250 km
- C. 400–430 km
- D. 500–550 km

ANSWER: C

2. Which Indian start-up recently raised ₹6.84 crore in a pre-seed funding round?

- A. Agnikul Cosmos
- B. Skyroot Aerospace
- C. Pixxel
- D. Astrophel Aerospace

ANSWER: D

3. What type of missile is Air LORA classified as?

- A. Subsonic cruise missile
- B. Quasi-ballistic, supersonic missile
- C. Hypersonic glide vehicle
- D. Short-range surface-to-air missile

ANSWER: B

4. The Indian Army's interest in M982 Excalibur rounds was intensified after which operation?

- A. Operation Parakram
- B. Operation Shakti
- C. Operation Sindoor

D. Operation Vijay

ANSWER: C

5. PADMA Stands For

- A. Pay Roll Automation for Disbursement of Monthly Allowances
- B. Pay Roll Automation for Digital Monthly Allowances
- C. Pay Roll Automated for Disbursement of Monthly Allowances
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

6. India's One and Only Tri-Services Command

- A. New Delhi
- B. Northern Army Command
- C. Andaman & Nicobar Command
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

7. The ALH MK III Helicopters Have Been Indigenously Manufactured By__.

- A. Boeing
- B. HAL
- C. DRDO
- D. Dassault Aviation

ANSWER: B

8. INS Satpura Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Guided Missile Stealth Frigate

ANSWER: D

9. HEAT Stands For ____.

- A. Highly Explosive Anti-Tank
- B. Highest Explosive Anti-Tank
- C. High Explosive Anti-Tank
- D. High Explore Anti-Tank

ANSWER: C

10. Current Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Is__.

- A. Dr. Samir Kamath
- B. Dr. Rakesh
- C. Dr. Rajiv Kumar
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

11. The Hawker Siddeley HS 748 Is A

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. UAV
- D. Transport Aircraft

ANSWER: D

12. Juba Is The Capital Of

- A. South Sudan
- B. Spain
- C. Sweden
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

13. "Legend of Suheldev: The King Who Saved India" Book Is Written By

- A. Urjit Patel
- B. Stephen King
- C. J.K Rowling
- D. Amish Tripathi

ANSWER: D

14. Duty, Honour, Courage Is The Motto Of

- A. Maratha Light Infantry
- B. The Grenadiers
- C. Rajput Regiment
- D. Jat Regiment

ANSWER: A

15. Prahaar Missile Manufactured By

- A. MDL
- B. BDL
- C. CSL
- D. DRDO

ANSWER: B

16. Regimental Centre of GARHWAL RIFLES Is In

- A. Happy Valley, Shillong, Meghalaya
- B. Ranikhet, Uttarakhand
- C. Lansdowne, Uttarakhand
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

17. INS Jalashwa Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Amphibious transport dock

ANSWER: D

18. Exercises B/w The India And UK Is Called:

- A. Desert Eagle
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Indradhanush

ANSWER: D

19. How Many Countries Are In SAARC?

- A. 3
- B. 4
- C. 8
- D. 6

ANSWER: C

20. Current CDS of Indian Armed Forces Is

- A. Gen Anil Chauhan
- B. Gen Bipin Rawat
- C. Gen M M Narravane
- D. None

ANSWER: A